

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 /091 W

----- 103215

R 012300Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3909

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS EMIN

SUBJECT PM MANLEY OPENS IBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE IBA BOARD MEETING, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND SOME OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, PM MANLEY SAID THE FORMATION OF THE IBA WAS A POSSIBLE MEANS OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHO OWNED THE RAW MATERIAL, AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO PROCESSED IT. MANLEY RETURNED TO THE PARTNERSHIP THEME OF HIS SPEECH EARLY THIS YEAR WHEN THE BAUXITE LEVY WAS ANNOUNCED AND SAID TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS SHOULD "RECOGNIZE THAT THE CREATION OF THE BAUXITE ASSOCIATION AFFORDS THEM A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE RELATIONS WITH RAW MATERIAL PRODUCING

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COUNTRIES ON A BASIS WHICH IS BOTH POLITICALLY AND

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND STABLE." HE SAID THE FORMATION OF THE IBA WAS "OUR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN EQUITABLE RETURN FOR THE RAW MATERIALS WHICH ARE OUR PATRIMONY."

2. WITH REFERENCE TO SUBSTITUTES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS MANLEY SAID THERE WERE THOSE WHO CONSIDERED THAT A SEARCH FOR BAUXITE SUBSTITUTES WAS A "VEILED ALLUSION TO RETALIATORY MEASURES." HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT UP TO HIM TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THE ACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT "SEEKING ALTERNATIVES TO OUR RAW MATERIALS MUST INEVITABLY BE A LONG-TERM AND COSTLY EXERCISE WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE CONSTRUED BY THE POOR OF THE WORLD AS AN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT THE POOR REMAIN POOR."

3. MANLEY ALSO REFERRED TO THE PURCHASE OF STOCK IN TWO OF THE BAUXITE COMPANIES BY THE GOJ (STATE 238132). HE SAID THE GOJ'S MOTIVE WAS QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND "THIS INVESTMENT IS ONE SMALL MEANS OF REAPING SOME ADVANTAGE FROM THE ADDITIONAL PROFITS DERIVED FROM THE PROCESSING OF OUR RAW MATERIAL. WE SEE NO CONFLICT BETWEEN SHARE HOLDING IN THE COMPANY DEALING IN THE END-PRODUCT AND OUR MAJORITY OWNERSHIP OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STAGES OF THE PROCESS". HE STATED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE INDUSTRY HAD WELCOMED THE MOVE AS AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE VIABILITY OF THE INDUSTRY AND AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN RAW MATERIAL PRODUCER AND PROCESSOR (KAISER). OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY HAD REACTED LESS GENEROUSLY. MANLEY SAID: "I CAN ONLY COMMENT THAT THE VERY PERSONS WHO SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME PREACHING TO US ABOUT WELCOMING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN OUR COUNTRY SEEM TO BE OVERLY SENSITIVE WHEN THERE IS A SLIGHT REVERSAL OF THE TABLES, AND THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT TAKES PLACE IN THEIRS, WITH A FLOW IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION." (EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS ON WHICH MEMBERS OF INDUSTRY PM MANLEY IS REFERRING TO.)

4. THE IBA ACCORDING TO MANLEY DID NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY BE DESTRUCTIVE TO ALL. THE GOAL WAS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMPANIES OPERATING IN THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A FAIR AND JUST SHARE OF THE ENTERPRISE TO THE BAUXITE COUNTRIES AND PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE COMPANIES COULD OPERATE

5. COMMENT: MANLEY'S SPEECH CONTAINED NOTHING NEW AND WAS BASICALLY CONCILIATORY. IN VIEW OF GOJ'S ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BAUXITE COMPANIES, HE IS UNLIKELY

TO PREJUDICE THEIR OUTCOME BY TAKING A CONFRONTATION
STANCE AT THIS TIME. GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RAW MATERIALS, BAUXITE, MINING INDUSTRY, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINGST03909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740315-0691
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741180/aaaacpqc.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM MANLEY OPENS IBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
TAGS: EMIN, JM, IBA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005